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09/527,230	03/16/2000	Junji Nishigaki	325772015900	2557

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, DOUGLAS Q	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2624	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/527,230	Applicant(s) NISHIGAKI, JUNJI	
	Examiner Douglas Q. Tran	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *2-6,8-12,14 and 15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *2-6,8-12,14 and 15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroshima et al. (US Patent No. 6,421,134 B1) in combination with Yamagami (US Patent No. 5,745,251).

As to claim 2, Kuroshima teaches an image processing apparatus (i.e., the apparatus in fig. 1 for processing image data stored in the memory "col. 5, lines 9-13") comprising:

a memory (i.e., a main memory 2 in figure 1 including the image memory "IMEM" in figure 2) for storing image data (col. 6, lines 14-17 describes that an image data of 400 dpi of the ship 22 "in figure 5" is read by the scanner 14 "in fig. 1"and stored in the image area IMEM in the memory 2);

a designating means (i.e., the CPU 1 in fig. 1) for designating the image size (i.e., the image size of the image data of the ship, which is designated for displaying on the window 20 "in fig. 5 and col. 5, lines 15-19 and col. 6, lines 22-26", would be 100 dpi "and please see 100 dpi on S2 of fig. 4"; and the CPU 1 would have a function for designating the image size to the display means "i.e., CRT 5 in fig. 1" because the CPU 1 controls the functions of the entire apparatus and also effects the image editing operation and image processing according to a

system program stored in the a memory 2 "col. 5, lines 5-12" and also effects to compressing operation "col. 5, lines 23-24");

a compressing system (i.e., a compression/expansion circuit 8 in fig. 1) which compress the image data by a compression method (i.e., JBIG method "col. 5, lines 27-28") corresponding to the image size designated with the designating means and send the compressed image data to the memory (col. 6, lines 17-21 describes that the original image data of 400 dpi is converted by the compression/expansion circuit 8 into lower resolution of 100 dpi and the converted image data is stored back in the image data IMEM of the main memory 2).

Although Kuroshima teaches the JBIG method in the compressing system, the compressing system can include a number of the compressing method, which would be well known in the prior art. For example, Yamagami teaches the compression system includes two different compression methods including the VLC method and the FLC method, wherein a first compression method which allows image editing in a compressed state (i.e., in step of S5 based on the condition of S3) and a second compression method which does not allow image editing in a compressed state (i.e., in step of S4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the compression system of Kuroshima to include two different compression method in which the first compression method for compressing the image editing and the second compression method is applied to the different condition as taught by Yamagami. The suggestion for modifying the system of Kuroshima can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Yamagami because the modified system would increase the

efficiencies of the compression system for applying the compression methods to the different conditions of the editing image data.

As to claim 3, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 2, and Yamagami further teaches the first compression is fixed length compression method and the second compression method is variable length compression method (col. 3, lines 62-63 and col. 4, lines 2-3).

As to claim 4, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 2, and Yamagami further teaches the compression system selects a compression method for accomplishing a second compression method after a first compression method when a designated image size is larger than a specific size, and selects only a first compression method when a designated image size is smaller than the specific size (it is noted that the different compression methods are applied to the size of the image data, thus, the size of the image data would be inherently selected to one of the compression methods).

As to claim 5, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 2, and Yamagami further teaches the image data are image data of four colors yellow, magenta, cyan, and black, and both compression (5 in fig. 2) and storage to memory (4 in fig. 2) are executed in parallel for each color (color image data from the image pickup device 2 would include color data and inherently are processed in parallel).

As to claim 6, Kuroshima discloses every feature discussed in claim 2, and Kuroshima further teaches that an expansion system (i.e., the compression/expansion circuit 8 in fig. 1) which expand the image data stored in the memory by a expansion method corresponding to the compression method which image size designated with the designating means and send the

compressed image data to the memory (col. 5, lines 23-29 describes that, in case of the compressed image data of 12.5 dpi, the compression/expansion circuit 8 in fig. 1 also expands the compressed image data of 12.5 to the image data of 400 dpi in the JBIG method; col. 5, lines 62-67 also describes that, in the data expansion, the image data of minimum resolution "12,5dpi", and the corresponding encoded data are utilized for preparing the image data of an upper rank "25 dpi" and up to the original image data of 400 dpi).

As to claim 8, Kuroshima teaches an image processing apparatus (i.e., the apparatus in fig. 1 for processing image data stored in the memory "col. 5, lines 9-13") comprising:

a memory (i.e., a main memory 2 in figure 1 including the image memory "IMEM" in figure 2) for storing image data (col. 6, lines 14-17 describes that an image of the ship 22 "in figure 5" is read by the scanner 14 "in fig. 1"and stored in the image area IMEM in the memory 2);

a designating means (i.e., the CPU 1 in fig. 1) for designating the image size (i.e., the image size of the image data of the ship, which is designated for displaying on the window 20 "in fig. 5 and col. 5, lines 15-19 and col. 6, lines 22-26", would be 100 dpi "and please see 100 dpi on S2 of fig. 4"; and the CPU 1 would have a function for designating the image size to the display means "i.e., CRT 5 in fig. 1" because the CPU 1 controls the functions of the entire apparatus and also effects the image editing operation and image processing according to a system program stored in the a memory 2 "col. 5, lines 5-12" and also effects to compressing operation "col. 5, lines 23-24");

a compression system (i.e., a compression/expansion circuit 8 in fig. 1) which includes a first compression method (i.e., JBIG method "col. 5, lines 27-28") for first compressing the

image data and a second compression method (i.e., JBIG method "col. 5, lines 27-28") for second compressing the image data compressed by the first compression method (col. 6, lines 49-57 describes that for displaying the image data of 100 dpi at the displaying means "i.e., CRT 5 in fig. 1", the original image data of 400 dpi from scanner 14 is compressed by two steps wherein the compressed image data of 100 dpi is obtained. Figure 9 shows 400 dpi is compressed to 200 dpi in step at C1 and 200 dpi is compressed to 100 dpi in step at C2. Therefore, a second compression method for second compressing the image data compressed by the first compression method. It is noted that the above compression methods would be the JBIG method "col. 5, lines 27-28"); and

a controller (i.e., the CPU 1 in fig. 1) which controls practice of the second compression method corresponding to the image size designated with the designating means (i.e., the image size of the image data of the ship, which is designated for displaying on the window 20 "in fig. 5 and col. 5, lines 15-19 and col. 6, lines 22-26", would be 100 dpi "and please see 100 dpi on S2 of fig. 4"; and the CPU 1 controls the functions of the entire apparatus and also effects the image editing operation and image processing according to a system program stored in the a memory 2 "col. 5, lines 5-12" and also effects to compressing operation "col. 5, lines 23-24". Therefore, the CPU 1 would have a function for controlling practice of the second compression method corresponding to the image size designated with the designating means for displaying the second-compressed image data of 100 dpi to the display means "i.e., CRT 5 in fig. 1").

Although Kuroshima teaches the JBIG method in the compressing system, the compressing system can include a number of the compressing method, which would be well known in the prior art. For example, Yamagami teaches the compression system includes two

different compression methods including the VLC method and the FLC method, wherein a first compression method which allows image editing in a compressed state (i.e., in step of S5 based on the condition of S3) and a second compression method which does not allow image editing in a compressed state (i.e., in step of S4).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the compression system of Kuroshima to include two different compression method in which the first compression method for compressing the image editing and the second compression method is applied to the different condition as taught by Yamagami. The suggestion for modifying the system of Kuroshima can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Yamagami because the modified system would increase the efficiencies of the compression system for applying the compression methods to the different conditions of the editing image data.

As to claim 9, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 8, and Kuroshima further teaches a plural image forming unit (13 in fig. 1) which forms an image based on the image data stored in the memory (2 in fig. 1).

As to claim 10, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 9, and Yamagami further teaches the memory stores the image data for delaying an output timing of the image data to the plural image forming unit (the image data from 12 in fig. 1 to 13 and 14 would be delayed for outputting time of image data).

As to claim 11, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 8, and Yamagami further teaches a paper supply unit which supplies sheet for image forming (it is

noted that any the forming device inherently has one of paper supply units for supplies sheet for image forming).

As to claim 12, Kuroshima and Yamagami disclose every feature discussed in claim 11, and Yamagami further teaches the controller distinguish whether the paper supply unit will be able to supply a sheet according to the image size in lengthwise direction and horizontal direction (it is noted in the automatic method, the controller would inherently selects one the paper supply unit for supply a sheet based on the condition of image size).

As to claims 14-15, the combination of Kuroshima and Yamagami discloses the method for performing the apparatus claims 2-3 as indicated above.

Response to Arguments and Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/11/04, with respect to the pending of claim(s) 2-6, 8-12, and 14-15 under final rejection have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Kuroshima et al. (US Patent No. 6,421,134 B1) in combination with Yamagami (US Patent No. 5,745,251).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the cited prior art fully discloses the claimed invention and the rejection stand.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Mar. 20, 2004